**Education**

Northeastern University, 2016–2021

Ph.D. Candidate in English, Writing and Rhetoric. Degree expected April 2021

Dissertation: “The Critical Fan Toolkit: Fanfiction Genres, Ideologies, and Pedagogies”

Dissertation Website: [www.criticalfantoolkit.org](http://www.criticalfantoolkit.org)

Committee: Mya Poe (Chair), Ellen Cushman, Neal Lerner, Laura Nelson

Graduate Certificate: Digital Humanities

St. John’s University, 2010–2015

M.A. in English, 2015

B.A. with honors *summa cum* laude in English, Minor in Creative Writing, 2014

Honors: Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society

Summa Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society

**ReSEARCH & TEACHING EMPHASIS**

Digital rhetoric and communication; fan studies; data, algorithm, & coding rhetorics; rhetorical genre studies; digital critical pedagogy; digital humanities; writing analytics; writing program administration.

**Digital Skills & proficiences**

**Programming**

Python (Pandas, NLTK, Plotly, Gensim, Matplotlib, Flask); HTML; CSS; XML (RelaxNG, TEI, XSLT); Git

**Digital Software**

GitHub, WordPress, Wix, Google Suite, Tableau, Microsoft Suite, Audacity (podcast editing software), Zotero, NVivo, Canva (open source design software), Openshot

**Research Methods**

Qualitative coding; interviews; computational text analysis; data analytics; writing analytics

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Peer Reviewed Articles**

“Black Lives Matter Digital Activism: Critical Digital Pedagogy in a Writing for Social Media Course.” *Spark: A 4C4Equality Journal*. Under review.

“rm monika.chr: Coding Rhetorics and Ephemeral Code in *Doki Doki Literature Club*.” *Computers and Composition Online*, “Making Games Matter” Special Issue. Webtext Proposal Accepted.

“Tracing Fan Uptakes: Tagging, Language, and Ideological Practices in The Legend of Korra Fanfictions.” *The Journal of Writing Analytics*, vol 3, 2019.

Cara Marta Messina, Sarah Connell, Julia Flanders, Caroline Klibanoff, and Sarah Payne. “Social Knowledge Creation in the Digital Humanities: Case Studies.” *Social Knowledge Creation,* Vol 2. In press.

**Special Issue Editor**

Alanna Prince, **Cara Marta Messina,** and Izetta Autumn Mobley. “Black Studies In/For the Rising DH Generation.” Co-editor with Alanna Prince and Izetta Autumn Mobley. *Digital Humanities Quarterly*. In progress.

**Book Reviews**

“These Violent Delights: A Review of Timothy J. Welsh’s *Mixed Realism: Videogames and the Violence of Fiction.*” *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, vol 13.4, 2019.

Harry Denny, **Cara Messina,** and Michael Reich. “Embracing the Challenges of Conventional Practices, Program Inquiry, and New Media in Writing Center Theory and Research.” *Composition Studies*, vol 43.2, 2015.

**Other Publications**

“Op-ed: Who is responsible for a COVID-19 outbreak at Northeastern?” *Huntington News*, August 30, 2020.

Mandy Olejnik and **Cara Marta Messina**. “On the Front Lines: Graduate Student Roles in Shaping Discourse in Digital Spaces.” *Xchanges*. issue 15.1, 2020.

Members of the WPA-L Reimagining Working Group and nextGEN. “Where We Are: Dialogue and Disciplinary Space.” *Composition Studies*, vol 47.2, 2019, 203–210.

Cara Marta Messina and Neal Lerner. “Mixed Methods Research in Writing Centers”. *Theories and Methods of Writing Center Studies*, 2019, 208–218.

**AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Kairos Teaching Award. *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy* | 2019 |
| College of Social Sciences and Humanities Teaching Award Finalist. *Northeastern University* | 2019 & 2020 |
| Student Organization Leader of the Year Nominee. *Northeastern University Student Life Award* | 2019 |
| Graduate Essay Contest Winner for Writing and Rhetoric. *Northeastern University English Department* | 2018 & 2019 |
| College of Social Sciences and Humanities Scholar Fellowship. *CSSH at Northeastern University* | 2016-2021 |
| Stipend Graduate Assistantship. *Northeastern University English Department,* 2016-2021 | 2016-2021 |
| Graduate Fellowship. *St. John’s University English Department* | 2014-2015 |
| NEWCA Connors Memorial Scholarship Award. *Northeast Writing Center Association* | 2013 |

**Grants**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CCCCs Research Grant. “Super-Diversity in Context: A Corpus-Based Study of Multilingual Writing Outcomes with Attention to Disparate Impact.” *Conference on College Composition and Communication.* | 2019-2020 |
| NULab Seedling Grant. “The Critical Fan Toolkit*.” NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks*, Northeastern University. | 2020 |
| Travel Grant. *NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks*, Northeastern University. | 2019 |
| Registration and Grub Grant. *International Writing Center Association and National Conference on Peer Tutoring Joint Conference*. | 2014 |

**UNIVERSITY TEACHING**

Northeastern University, English Department:

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| --- | --- |
| ENGL 2850: Writing in/for Social Media (online course) | Summer 2020 |
| ENGW 1111: First Year Writing | 2017-2018 |
| ENGW 3315: Advanced Writing in the Discipline | Summer 2018 |

St. John’s University, First Year Writing Program

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| ENG 1000: First Year Writing | 2015-2016 |

**DIGITAL PROFICIENCY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

The Digital Integration Teaching Initiative (DITI) is a new initiative from Northeastern University’s College of Social Sciences and Humanities. DITI collaborates with faculty across the disciplines and developed curriculum to better integrate digital proficiencies. Digital proficiency modules which I co-created & co-led:

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| **Digital Proficiency** | **Description of Proficiency** |
| Data and Digital Ethics | Introduces concepts of big data, surveillance, algorithmic bias, and algorithmic justice through hands-on activities |
| Website Creation | Shares best practices and steps for building a website with content management systems such as WordPress. |
| Citation Management | Demonstrates the affordances and constraints of citation management tools and how these tools can be useful for research. |
| Data Collection, Analysis and Organization | Provides best practices for data analysis and organization with introductory tools such as Google Sheets and Excel as well as more advanced tools such as Python. |
| Text Analysis (Computational Text Analysis) | Demonstrates how to build a corpus (collection of texts) and analyze that corpus with introductory web-browser computational text analysis tools as well as more advanced tools such as Python. |
| Text Analysis (Qualitative Coding) | Introduce qualitative coding as a research method for both empirical data, primary, and secondary sources; usually teaches NVivo, a software for text analysis and research projects. |
| Podcast Creation | Provides guide to creating a podcast: genre awareness, rhetorical choices, script creation, best practices for recording, and how to use Audacity. |

**academic Experience**

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| --- | --- |
| **Assistant Director**. Writing Program, Northeastern University | 2020-Present |
| **Assistant Director**. Digital Integration Teaching Initiative, Northeastern University. | 2019-2020 |
| **Research Associate**. Writing Program Committee Reflection Study, Northeastern University. | 2019-Present |
| **Coordinator**. NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks, Northeastern University. | 2018-2019 |
| **Pedagogy and Infrastructure Team Member**. Women Writers’ Vector Toolkit, Northeastern University. | 2018-2019 |
| **Research Associate**. Design for Diversity, Northeastern University | 2017-2018 |
| **Director of Research**. Writing Center, Northeastern University | 2016-2017 |
| **Research Assistant.** The Meaningful Writing Project, Anne Ellen Geller, St. John’s University | 2015 |
| **Writing Center Consultant**. Columbia University School of Social Work Writing Center. | 2015–2016 |
| **Writing Coach**. SUNY Empire State College Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies Academic Support. | 2015–2016 |
| **Tutor and Workshop Facilitator**. Queensborough Community College Writing Center. | 2014–2015 |
| **Writing Fellow**. St. John’s University Writing Across the Curriculum | 2013–2014 |
| **Writing Consultant**. St. John’s University Writing Center | 2011–2015 |

**presentations, POSTERS, & WORKSHOPS**

**Invited Presentations**

“Queering Fanfiction: The Intersection of Imagination and Identity.” Panel. Gender and Sexuality Studies Club, Marymount Manhattan College, 2017. Received honorarium.

“Tracing Critical Fan Composing Practices.” *Speed Data-ing*, Northeastern University NULab, 2020.

“Digital Humanities the Dissertation.” Digital Humanities Open Office Hours, Northeastern University, 2020.

“Ways of Reading.” Panel with Hillary Chute, Laura Green, and William Quinn. *Barrs Criticism Slam*, Northeastern University English Department, 2018.

“Reading as Writers: Marking up and Writing Fan Fiction in the Composition Classroom.” Panel. *Barrs Criticism Slam*, Northeastern University, 2016.

**Selected Conference Presentations**

“Critical Fan Pedagogy: Teaching Critical Digital Literacies with Fanfiction Data” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Spokane, WA. Forthcoming 2021.

“Fan Composing as Digital Activism: Transformative Representations of Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Fanfiction.” *Computers and Writing*. East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. Cancelled due to COVID-19.

“(mis)Representation in Large Corpus Analysis.” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Milwaukee, WI. 2020. Cancelled due to COVID-19.

“Tracing Fan Uptakes with Computational Text Analysis.” *Computers and Writing*. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. 2019.

“Fans as Stakeholders: Legitimizing Fan Uptakes and Genres.” *International Conference on Writing Analytics*. University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL. 2019.

“Incorporating XML in the First Year Writing Course: An Ongoing Case Study.” *UConn Conference on the Teaching of Writing*. University of Connecticut. Storrs, CT. 2018.

“The Spaces of Possibilities: Fan Communities, Representation, and the Writing Classroom.” *Conference on Community Writing*. Boulder, CO. 2017.

“Fan Fiction Ecologies and the Writing Classroom.” *English Graduate Student Association Conference*. Northeastern University. Boston, MA. 2017.

**Selected Roundtable Presentations**

“Designing Inclusive Information Systems: From Theory to Change.” Chair of roundtable discussion. *Association for Computers and Humanities*. Pittsburgh, PA. 2019.

“Continuing the Conversation: Navigating Inclusivity and Vulnerability in Online Listservs and Digital Spaces.” Presented with Ashanka Kumari, Emily LaPadura, Katelyn Lusher, Mandy Olejnik, and Kyllikki Rytov. *Computers and Writing*. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. 2019.

“Theory on the Ground: Building Writing Center Research Groups.” Presented with Abbie Levesque and Kyle Oddis. *Northeastern Writing Center Association*. College of Holy Cross. Worcester, MA. 2018.

“Process Over Product: Challenging Institutional Pressures and Discrimination Through Ongoing Consultant Training.” Lead Presenter, presented with Abbie Levesque, Zachary Shaw, and Matthew Hitchcock. *Northeastern Writing Center Association.* Pace University. Pleasantville, NY. 2017

“Initial Impressions: How Heuristics Shape Writing Center Consultations.” Co-presented with Alison Perry, Mairead Carr, and Jack Wells. *Northeast Writing Center Association*. Centenary College. Hackettstown, NJ. 2015.

“Creating a Freshman Writing Journal: A Collaboration Between a First-Year Writing Program and a Writing Center.” Co-presented with Derek Owens, Tom Philipose, Alison Perry, Anna Sicari, Tara Roeder, and Bailey Robertson. *International Writing Center Association and National Conference on Peer Tutoring Joint Conference.* Orlando, FL. 2015.

“Consulting with Gendered Bodies: An Inquiry into Gender Performance in Sessions and Interactions at the Writing Center.” Co-presented with Donya Nassar, Bailey Robertson, Alison Perry, and Anne Geller. *Northeast Writing Center Association*. Bryant University. Smithfield, RI. 2014.

“The Writing Fellows Program: Modeling Partners for Change.” Lead Presenter, presented with Eleadah Clack, Alyssa-Rae Hug, Carolyn Wargula, and Anne Geller. *Northeast Writing Center Association.* University of New Hampshire. Durham, NH. 2013.

**Workshops**

“Introduction to GitHub.” Workshop creator & leader. Northeastern University. 2018 & 2018.

“Introduction to Python.” Teaching assistant. Northeastern University. 2019.

“Women Writers’ Vector Toolkit Workshop.” Co-creator & leader. Northeastern University, 2018.

**Posters**

“Critical Fan Toolkit: Building a Digital, Public Rhetoric and Composition Dissertation.” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*. Milwaukee, WI. 2020. Cancelled due to COVID-19

“Reimagining Romance: *The Legend of Korra* Critical Fandom Practices.” *Association for Computers and Humanities*. Pittsburgh, PA. July 2019.

“Positions and Power: How the Writing Center is Viewed in the Institution.” Co-created with Abbie Levesque, Siddharth Pannir, and Quisqueya Witbeck. *Northeastern Writing Center Association*. College of Holy Cross. Worcester, MA. March 2018.

“Information and System Design for Diversity: Can We Do Better?” Co-created with Amanda Rust and Julia Flanders. *Digital Humanities*. Montreal, Canada. August 2017.

**Professional service**

**Academic Service**

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| --- | --- |
| **Secondary Instructor for Directed Study**. First Instructor, Suzanna Walters. Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Northeastern University. | 2021 |
| **Editor-in-Chief**. *NU Writing*, Northeastern University  **Founder and Chair**. Graduate Student Welfare Advocacy Group, Northeastern University | 2020-Present  2019-2020 |
| **Member.** Writing Program Administration Listserv Reimaging Working Group | 2019-2020 |
| **Organizer.** Feminist Coding Collective, Northeastern University | 2016-2020 |
| **President.** English Graduate Student Association, Northeastern University | 2018-2019 |
| **Reviewer**. *Digital Humanities Quarterly* | 2018-2019 |
| **Notetaker**. “Shared Realities: A Workshop on Disability, Technology, and Inclusion.” Microsoft Research New England. | 2016 |
| **Co-Editor & Website Creator**. *First Year Writing Journal*, St. John’s University | 2014 |
| **Editor-in-Chief**. *Sequoya Literary and Arts Magazine,* St. John’s University | 2013-2014 |
| **Secretary**. Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society, St. John’s University | 2013-2014 |
| **Co-Creator**. Creative Writing Group, St. John’s University | 2011-2013 |

**Conference Organization**

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| **Lead Organizer**. English Graduate Student Association Graduate Conference, “Centering the Margins,” Northeastern University | 2019 |
| **Co-Organizer**. NULab Spring Conference, “Digital Storytelling,” Northeastern University. | 2018 |
| **Co-Organizer**. Climate Change/Crisis/Creativity Conference. Northeastern University. | 2018 |
| **Co-Organizer**. Design for Diversity Closing Forum, Northeastern University. | 2018 |
| **Co-Organizer**. Design for Diversity Opening Forum, Northeastern University | 2017 |

**REFERENCES**

**Mya Poe**

Associate Professor of English

Writing Program Director

Northeastern University

Relationship: Dissertation advisor and current supervisor at the Writing Program

**Ellen Cushman**

Associate Professor of English

Dean's Professor of Civic Sustainability

Northeastern University

Relationship: Dissertation committee member and former advisor

**Neal Lerner**

Associate Professor of English

Chair of the English Department

Northeastern University

Relationship: Dissertation committee member and co-writer for book chapter

**Laura Nelson**

Assistant Professor of Sociology

Digital Integration Teaching Initiative Coordinator

Northeastern University

Relationship: Dissertation reader and former supervisor at the Digital Integration Teaching Initiative